



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/751,317	01/02/2004	Patrick Joseph Brooks	AUS920030294US1	2020
35525	7590	09/17/2008		
IBM CORP (YA)				
C/O YEE & ASSOCIATES PC				
P.O. BOX 802333				
DALLAS, TX 75380				
EXAMINER				
TANG, KENNETH				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2195				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/17/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ptonotifs@yeciipaw.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/751,317

Applicant(s)

BROOKS ET AL.

Examiner

KENNETH TANG

Art Unit

2195

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 11 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 11 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/20/04
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 11, and 20 are presented for examination. Claims 2-10, 12-19, and 21-27 were cancelled by the Applicant in the Preliminary Amendment on 5/21/08.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1, 11, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand (US 2002/0032590 A1) in view of Raventos (US 2002/0194244 A1).**

3. As to claim 1, Anand teaches a method for managing the provisioning of a plurality of resources in a data processing system, said plurality of resources being a plurality of different types (see Abstract, Fig. 2 and 5), said method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of provisioning states for each one of said plurality of different types of resources (page 1, [0008], page 2, [0012]-[0013], page 4, [0038], page 5, [0051]);

defining relationships among said plurality of provisioning states, said relationships describing valid transitions from ones of said plurality of provisioning states to other ones of said plurality of provisioning states (page 4, [0040], [0045], page 5, [0059], page 2, [0012]); and

defining at least one task that is associated with each one of said valid transitions, wherein defining at least one task that is associated with each one of said valid transitions, comprises (page 2, [0012]-[0013], page 4, [0040], [0045]):

specifying a plurality of tasks for each one of said valid transitions (page 2, [0012]-[0013], page 4, [0040], [0045]);

completing said one of said valid transitions for each one of said plurality of different types of resources (standalone computer, notebook computer, hand-held computer, PDA, etc), wherein the same module is used regardless of which resource type is being transitioned (page 3, [0031], [0037], page 5, [0059], page 6, [0064]-[0065]).

4. Anand does disclose that a workflow comprises of a plurality of processing steps (page 1, [0004], lines 1-14). However, Anand is silent in explicitly teaching the sequence/order of the processing steps or plurality of tasks to complete the transition. Raventos teaches a transaction based service that defines various tasks or functions that could be used on different types of resources, namely, transactional and non-transactional resources such that the sequence order of tasks in a completed transaction is defined/specified as well as the states of the transaction being monitored (see Abstract, page 2, [0009] and [0021], page 6, [0044], page 8, [0055], last 6 lines of [0057], page 10, [0068]). Anand and Raventos are analogous art because they are both in the same field of endeavor of a transaction/workflow processing system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Anand such that it would include the feature of providing a sequence/order for completion of the processing steps or plurality of tasks, as taught in Raventos. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide the predicted result of aiding to fully and properly activate

the services of the system (page 1, last four lines of [0004], [0006], lines 1-5, [0001]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Anand and Raventos to obtain the invention of claim 1.

5. As to claims 11 and 20, they are rejected for the same reasons as stated in the rejection of claim 1.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- **Kakuta et al. (JP 2004334430 A)** discloses a workflow statistic-information processing method that ensures storage for recording statistic-information corresponding to transition states generated within the workflow process (see Derwent Abstract).
- **Iwasaki et al. (JP 2004295516 A)** discloses a workflow processing method involving generating state transition data relevant to a specific state transition, at a specific condition (see Derwent Abstract).
- **Ishida (JP 2004086545A)** discloses a transaction processing system that stores data on a state management table (see Derwent Abstract).
- **Kim et al. (KR 2004023435 A)** discloses a method for offering completeness of a transaction process by providing the sequential functions needed until a transaction is completed (see Derwent Abstract).

- **Machida (JP 2004348473)** discloses a transaction processing system that verifies whether a transition conforms to conditions in a check list, when the program state changes according to the transition definition (see Derwent Abstract).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KENNETH TANG whose telephone number is (571)272-3772. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM - 6:00PM, Every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Meng-Ai An/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2195

/Kenneth Tang/
Examiner, Art Unit 2195